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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions (E/1997/25, para. 52). The Commission subsequently requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission (resolution 2006/1) and stressed the importance of preparing written reports on those meetings (decision 2005/2). In accordance with Commission resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held three meetings, in New York, on 5 November 2010 and on 6 and 20 January 2011.

2. The first meeting of the Bureau, on 5 November 2010, was attended by Brian Bowler (Chair), Christophe de Bassompierre and Suljuk Mustansar Tarar. Present at the second meeting, on 6 January 2011, were Mr. Bowler, Mr. de Bassompierre, Mr. Tarar, Easton Williams (by means of teleconference) and Attila Zimonyi. Present at the third meeting, on 20 January 2011, were Mr. Bowler, Mr. de Bassompierre, Mr. Tarar, Mr. Williams and Mr. Zimonyi. The Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other staff members of the Division and representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were present at all meetings of the Bureau.

3. The present report summarizes the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings, as well as the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

* E/CN.9/2011/1.

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II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

A. Organization of work for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

4. The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the forty-fourth session of the Commission and found it acceptable.

B. Keynote speakers

5. In its decision 2005/2, adopted at its thirty-eighth session, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to the sessions of the Commission and requested the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for their participation and to inform States members of the Commission accordingly. Pursuant to that decision, the Bureau decided that three keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme "Fertility, reproductive health and development" and that each speaker would be allotted one hour to make a presentation and engage in an interactive dialogue with members of the Commission. The Bureau selected John Bongaarts, Eunice Brookman-Amissah and Amy Tsui as keynote speakers. Mr. Bongaarts, Vice-President of the Population Council, was invited to speak on "Fertility trends and their implications for development". Ms. Brookman-Amissah, Director of the IPAS Africa Alliance for Women's Reproductive Health and Rights, was asked to speak on "Addressing reproductive health challenges". Ms. Tsui, Director of the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at Johns Hopkins University, was to speak on "Improving family planning services to achieve universal reproductive health". As had become customary, the Bureau recommended that the working group be adjourned during the presentations made by the keynote speakers.

C. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the forty-fourth session of the Commission

6. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-fourth session was relevant to the work of many entities of the United Nations system, in particular to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization and the World Bank. Thus, the Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to participate in the Commission's session and invite them to consider organizing side events during the session. As in other sessions of the Commission, the Bureau welcomed the involvement of UNFPA in organizing a side event for the forty-fourth session.

D. Communication of the Chair with members of the Commission

7. The Bureau requested its Chair to write to all members of the Commission underscoring the need to have technical representatives, that is, specialists in fertility, reproductive health and development, attend the forty-fourth session. The

Chair was also requested to provide guidance to the Commission's members regarding the agenda items under which statements could be made, to outline the relevance of the various items on the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session and to include information about how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session. In addition, the Chair was to outline the proposals made by the Bureau to ensure that the Commission could make a substantive contribution to the 2011 annual ministerial review conducted by the Economic and Social Council, whose theme would be "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education".

E. General debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the light of its twentieth anniversary

8. The Bureau considered how the Commission might guide its consideration of item 5 of the provisional agenda, on the general debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the light of its twentieth anniversary. The Bureau noted that, on 22 December 2010, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 65/234, entitled "Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014", in which the Assembly decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives, and also decided to convene a special session during its sixty-ninth session in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives.

9. In the same resolution, the General Assembly further decided that the Commission, which was scheduled to hold, at its forty-fourth session, a general debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action in the light of the twentieth anniversary of the Conference, should convene an interactive discussion during its forty-seventh session on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action, and called upon UNFPA, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as institutions and experts, to undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development and taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues. In addition, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on that review to the Commission at its forty-seventh session.

10. Taking into account the decisions of and the guidance provided by the General Assembly, and noting that the Assembly, in its resolution 65/234, stressed the importance of protecting the achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development, responding to new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment, and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development, the Bureau suggested that the general debate to be held under item 5

of the provisional agenda could focus on ways of buttressing the achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development, whose overall theme had been the interrelations of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and on ways of ensuring that the population and development agenda would be integrated into key global processes related to development, especially the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012. With that objective in mind, the Bureau decided to invite high-level officials of United Nations entities involved in activities relevant to the integration of the population and development agenda into global processes in order to launch the debate.

F. Relationship of the Commission with the Economic and Social Council

11. The Bureau discussed ways of ensuring that the Commission would contribute to the 2011 annual ministerial review conducted by the Economic and Social Council, the theme of which would be "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". The Bureau noted that education was recognized as a key determinant of population processes. In the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the importance of education had been recognized and the topic of education had been the focus of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission. Consequently, there was merit in increasing the synergies between the Commission's work and the annual ministerial review. To that end, the Bureau suggested inviting the permanent representatives of the Member States planning to make national presentations at the ministerial review to join the Commission during the general debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the ministerial review in 2011 (item 6 of the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session) so that they could engage in an interactive dialogue highlighting the synergies between the population and development agenda and the goal of improving educational attainment worldwide.

12. The Bureau also endorsed the suggestion made by the Chair to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to launch the discussion of that item, as had been done in prior sessions of the Commission. In addition, the Bureau suggested that an expert be invited to provide a brief overview of the key linkages between education and population processes.

13. The Bureau of the Commission was informed that the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council would meet with the Chairs of functional commissions on 16 February 2011 to discuss the various ways in which those commissions could contribute to the work of the Council. The Chair said he would inform the Council's Bureau about the proposals made by the Bureau of the Commission in regard to the annual ministerial review.

G. Special themes for future sessions of the Commission

14. The Bureau recalled the Commission's decision 2010/101, in which the Commission decided that the special theme for its forty-fifth session in 2012 would be "Adolescents and youth". The Bureau took note of the need to establish a

multi-year work programme for the Commission and discussed various themes that might be considered in 2013 and beyond. In doing so, the Bureau considered the themes that the Commission had covered in the past and took into account the calendar of known events and activities in other relevant bodies of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In particular, the Bureau recalled that the Assembly would hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, in 2013, and a special session, in 2014, in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

15. The Bureau also recalled that the Bureau of the Commission at its forty-third session had recommended the theme "International migration and development" for 2012 and the theme "National action, international cooperation and partnerships with the non-governmental sector" for 2013, but noted that neither theme had garnered consensus from the Commission at its forty-third session.

16. Recalling that the overall theme of the International Conference on Population and Development had been the interrelations of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and noting that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012 would highlight new challenges with regard to population and development and to the changing development environment that would have to be taken into account in pursuing the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the Bureau recommended that the theme for 2013 be "Population and sustainable development". By focusing the Commission's attention in 2013 on the links between population dynamics and development from the perspective of sustainability, that theme would lay a solid foundation for the interactive discussion on the status of implementation of the Programme of Action that the Commission would conduct during its forty-seventh session, in 2014.

17. The Bureau also considered that, in view of the decisions made by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/234, the Commission might wish to adopt as the theme for its forty-seventh session "Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

H. Resolutions and decisions

18. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following resolutions or decisions: (a) a decision on the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission; (b) a decision on the theme for the Commission's forty-sixth session, in 2013, and for the forty-seventh session, in 2014; and (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-fourth session, namely, "Fertility, reproductive health and development".

19. As for previous sessions, the Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-fourth session of the Commission to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission. The Bureau also recommended that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions so as to facilitate the deliberations of the working group. The Bureau further requested that the Chair's

drafts be made available to members of the Commission and the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

20. The Bureau considered the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session and recommended that it be the same as for the forty-fourth session.

21. One member of the Bureau noted that the Commission might wish to consider merging item 4 of the provisional agenda, "General debate on national experience in population matters", with item 3, "Actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development", since member States usually made only one statement covering both items. If that proposal were accepted, item 3 of the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session would read "General debate on actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development on adolescents and youth" and item 4 of the provisional agenda would be deleted. In addition, given the decisions made by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/234 and the recommendations made by the Bureau regarding the themes for the sessions in 2013 and 2014, a member of the Bureau noted that the Commission might also wish to reconsider the inclusion and content of item 5 of the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session.

I. Briefing for members of the Commission

22. The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize, at least three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fourth session of the Commission, a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.

23. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-fourth session of the Commission in order to facilitate the preparation of statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed posting on the Internet advance unedited versions of those documents in English.

J. Conclusions and recommendations

24. The Bureau of the Commission for the forty-fourth session met three times, in New York, on 5 November 2010 and on 6 and 20 January 2011. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from those three meetings are summarized below.

25. The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

26. The Bureau decided that three keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme "Fertility, reproductive health and development".

27. The Bureau recommended that the general debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the light of its twentieth anniversary (item 5 of the provisional agenda) focus on ways to buttress the achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development, the overall theme of

which was the interrelations of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, as well as on ways to ensure that the population and development agenda is integrated into key global processes related to development, especially the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012.

28. The Bureau decided to invite high-level officials of United Nations entities involved in activities relevant to the integration of the population and development agenda into global processes to launch the debate under item 5 of the provisional agenda.

29. The Bureau decided to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under item 6 of the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session and to invite the Permanent Representatives of Member States making national presentations at the 2011 annual ministerial review to participate in an interactive dialogue on the relevance of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development for implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education that would take place under the same item. In addition, the Bureau suggested that an expert be invited to provide a brief overview of the key linkages between education and population processes.

30. The Bureau recommended that the special theme for 2013 be "Population and sustainable development".

31. The Bureau suggested that the Commission acknowledge the decisions made by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/234 by choosing "Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development" as the theme of its forty-seventh session, in 2014.

32. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following: (a) a decision on the agenda for the forty-fourth session; (b) a decision on the themes for the forty-sixth session, in 2013, and the forty-seventh session, in 2014; (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-fourth session, namely, "Fertility, reproductive health and development".

33. The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-fourth session of the Commission to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission.

34. The Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions that might facilitate the deliberations of the working group. The Bureau requested that the Chair's drafts be made available to members of the Commission and to the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

35. The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize, at least three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fourth session of the Commission, a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.

36. The Bureau requested the Chair of the Commission to write to all members of the Commission underscoring the need to have technical representatives attend the forty-fourth session, that is, specialists in the area of fertility, reproductive health and development.

37. The Bureau requested the Chair of the Commission to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to participate in the Commission's session and invite them to consider organizing side events during the session.